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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 18, 2006

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RICHMOND—Beginning September 27, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will visit the National Guard Armory in Chatham on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The Armory is located at 326 South Main Street.

DVS Benefits Services Representative Nicole Crews will be at the Chatham Armory to help veterans file for VA benefits. “I’m looking forward to being at the Armory,” said Crews. “This gives me an opportunity to get out into the community and reach even more veterans.”

The Department of Veterans Services has a permanent office at 165 Deer Run Road in Danville. However, Department staff also visit temporary sites weekly. In addition to her Danville and Chatham locations, Crews is out-stationed on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Patrick Henry Administration Building in Collinsville.

Benefits service representatives, like Crews, work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. These representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury that was incurred or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions that are due to a service connection. “For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes,” explained Crews.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows' pensions, dependents' education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. "Basically, we're advocates for veterans. We help them with their paperwork, we track the claim with the VA, and we represent them if they need to appeal a claim," said Crews.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 19 benefits offices where veterans can work with representatives like Crews. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency also operates the Veterans Care Center in Roanoke. A second care center is under construction in Richmond. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is slated to open in May 2007.

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